What is claimed is:

1. An image data transmission device for transmitting a plurality of groups of image data stored in a storage section to a prescribed plurality of image data reception devices connected thereto via a network, comprising:

a memory which stores transmission destination data identifying an image data reception device forming a transmission destination, and timing data indicating the timing at which transmission was instructed, in a corresponding fashion with each group of image data to be transmitted;

a setter which sets a transmission order for image data for each transmission destination, on the basis of the timing data; and

a transmission controller which controls a plurality of image data corresponding to a plurality of transmission destinations, in such a manner that the image data is transmitted in parallel according to the set transmission order for each transmission destination.

2. The image data transmission device according to claim 1, wherein the memory stores transmission destination data identifying an image data reception device forming a transmission

destination, timing data indicating the timing at which
transmission was instructed, and priority data indicating a
transmission priority, in a corresponding fashion with each group
of image data to be transmitted, inside the storage section; and

5   the setter sets a transmission order for the image data
for each transmission destination on the basis of the timing data
and the priority data.

    3.   The image data transmission device according to claim 2,
10 wherein at least two levels of priority are set in the priority
data; and

          the setter sets a transmission order for the image data
for each transmission destination in such a manner that the
transmission of image data having a high priority is performed
15 prior to the transmission of image data having normal priority
which was instructed for transmission within a prescribed period
of time before the timing of the new instruction.

    4.   The image data transmission device according to claim 2,
20 wherein at least two levels of priority are set in the priority
data; and

          the setter sets a transmission order for the image data
for each transmission destination in such a manner that the

transmission of newly instructed image data having a high

priority is performed prior to the transmission of all image data

having normal priority which has been instructed for transmission

and is awaiting transmission.

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5.   The image data transmission device according to claim 1,

wherein the network is the Internet.

6.   An image data transmission method for transmitting a

10 plurality of groups of image data stored in a storage section to

a prescribed plurality of image data reception devices connected

thereto via a network, comprising the steps of:

storing transmission destination data identifying an

image data reception device forming a transmission destination,

15 and timing data indicating the timing at which transmission was

instructed, in a corresponding fashion with each group of image

data to be transmitted, inside the storage section;

setting a transmission order for image data for each

transmission destination, on the basis of the timing data; and

20   controlling a plurality of image data corresponding to

a plurality of transmission destinations, in such a manner that

the image data is transmitted in parallel according to the set

transmission order for each transmission destination.

7.   The image data transmission method according to claim 6,
wherein in the storing step, priority data indicating a
transmission priority is further stored, and in the setting step,
5   the transmission order is set on the basis of the timing data and
the priority data.

8.   The image data transmission method according to claim 7,
wherein at least two levels of priority are set in the priority
10   data; and in the setting step, the transmission order is set in
such a manner that the transmission of image data having a high
priority is performed prior to the transmission of image data
having normal priority which was instructed for transmission
within a prescribed period of time before the timing of the new
15   instruction.

9.   The image data transmission method according to claim 7,
wherein at least two levels of priority are set in the priority
data; and in the setting step, the transmission order is set in
20   such a manner that the transmission of newly instructed image
data having a high priority is performed prior to the
transmission of all image data having normal priority which has
been instructed for transmission and is awaiting transmission.

10.   The image data transmission method according to claim 6, wherein the network is the Internet.

5   11.   A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for transmitting a plurality of groups of image data stored in a storage section to a prescribed plurality of image data reception devices connected thereto via s network, wherein the program is designed such that:

        transmission destination data identifying an image data reception device forming a transmission destination, and timing data indicating the timing at which transmission was instructed, are stored in a corresponding fashion with each group of image data to be transmitted, inside the storage section;

        a transmission order for image data for each transmission destination is set on the basis of the timing data; and

        a plurality of image data corresponding to a plurality of transmission destinations is controlled in such a manner that the image data is transmitted in parallel according to the set transmission order for each transmission destination.

12.   The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 11, wherein the network is the Internet.

13.   An image data transmission and reception system comprising an image data transmission device for transmitting a plurality of groups of image data stored in a storage section, on the basis of transmission instructions, and a plurality of image data reception devices connected to the image data transmission device via a network,

wherein the image data transmission device comprises:

a memory which stores transmission destination data identifying an image data reception device forming a transmission destination, and timing data indicating the timing at which transmission was instructed, in a corresponding fashion with each group of image data to be transmitted, inside the storage section;

a setter which sets a transmission order for image data for each transmission destination, on the basis of the timing data; and

a transmission controller which controls a plurality of image data corresponding to a plurality of transmission destinations, in such a manner that the image data is transmitted

in parallel according to the set transmission order for each

transmission destination; and

the image data reception devices comprise:

a memory which stores transmitted image data;

5   a judger which judges whether or not printing has been

instructed; and

a printer which performs printing on the basis of the

stored image data, if it is judged that printing has been

instructed.

10

14.   The image data transmission and reception system

according to claim 13, wherein the network is the Internet.

15.   An image data transmission and reception method for use

15   with an image data transmission device for transmitting a

plurality of groups of image data stored in a storage section, on

the basis of transmission instructions, and a plurality of image

data reception devices connected to the image data transmission

device via a network, comprising the steps of:

20   in the image data transmission device,

storing transmission destination data identifying an

image data reception device forming a transmission destination,

and timing data indicating the timing at which transmission was

instructed, in a corresponding fashion with each group of image data to be transmitted, inside the storage section;

setting a transmission order for image data for each transmission destination, on the basis of the timing data; and

controlling a plurality of image data corresponding to a plurality of transmission destinations, in such a manner that the image data is transmitted in parallel according to the set transmission order for each transmission destination; and

in the image data reception devices,

storing transmitted image data;

judging whether or not printing has been instructed; and

performing printing on the basis of the stored image data, if it is judged that printing has been instructed.

16. An image data transmission and reception method according to claim 15, wherein the network is the Internet.